

SHEEPMEN TO GO FREE.

Government Will Not Prosecute Herders on Reservations.

CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS WILL HOLD.

Prospects That the Ranges in Arizona, New Mexico and Other States May Be Set Aside for Pasturing Sheep.

Commissioner Binger Herman of the United States land office said that there would be no criminal prosecutions of sheepowners who have violated the regulations of the land office by pasturing sheep on government reservations.

In response to the request of the secretary of the interior, Attorney General Griggs several days ago rendered an opinion that criminal prosecutions would lie against any one who violated the regulations issued by the secretary of the interior for the protection of the forestry reservation.

Some time ago Forest Superintendent J. D. Benedict of New Mexico wrote a letter to the commissioner of the land office, stating that the United States attorney for New Mexico had informed him that a criminal prosecution would not hold under the regulations to prevent the pasturing of sheep on government reservations. It was this that called forth the opinion of the attorney general.

Commissioner Hermann says there is no disposition on the part of the government to inflict any serious hardship on the wool growers of New Mexico and Arizona. It has been pointed out that a strict enforcement of the regulations would mean great loss to the wool growing industry of that section. In order to ascertain if the department

could give any relief without violating the act of congress, the commissioner has written Forest Superintendent Benedict and other forest superintendents to make a thorough investigation and report if any part of the forest reservations in Arizona and New Mexico and other sheep raising states can be set aside without detriment to the forests for grazing sheep.

The commissioner explained why it was that the regulations preventing sheep grazing did not apply to Oregon and Washington. It is because there is a continual moisture of the soil with an abundant rainfall, and nature at once repairs the damage done by the sheep. A report from Forest Superintendent Benedict is expected in a few days.

Mystery in Yavapai County.

J. D. Sellers, who is building the Prescott and Bradshaw wagon road, reports the finding in a gulch between Tuscumbia and Crown King of the remains of a man over which about a ton and a half of rock had been piled. Nearby was the carcass of an unshod pony, a rope around its neck and tied to a bush. The man's hair was black, but sprinkled with gray. The clothes upon the body were of good texture; the coat was silk lined. Foul play is suspected. Deputy Sheriff Boscha, with a party, went out from Congress to investigate. Judge Campbell of Prescott, who went to the scene to investigate the tragedy, returned Saturday. He states that nothing whatever was secured from the body to identify the man, and in consequence the murder is still wrapped in mystery. He says, however, that the victim from all appearances was evidently a white man. The location of the body gives one the impression that a murder had been committed and the remains taken to an unusual spot.—Arizona Gazette.